

for the California State University at Bakersfield (CSUB) Foundation to purchase equipment needed by the Valley Fever Vaccine Project, additional funding is needed to develop a vaccine, particularly as incidences of Valley Fever continue to increase while treatment options are limited.

Thus, I have introduced the Valley Fever Vaccine Development Act, which would authorize, from Fiscal Year 2007 through Fiscal Year 2012, funding for grants through the Centers for Disease Control for efforts to develop a vaccine to prevent and reduce the prevalence of this serious disease. As the development of a Valley Fever vaccine will directly enhance public health, I ask my colleagues to join me as I work to enact this important legislation.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 376) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2007 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2008 through 2011:

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to this misguided budget resolution, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against it.

The Federal budget is much more than just a government document; it is a statement of our Nation's priorities and values. I am tremendously proud that in my first term as the Second District of North Carolina's Representative in the U.S. House, Congress and the President balanced the budget for the first time in a generation. Until just a few years ago, the budget remained balanced and the surpluses we produced were being used to pay down the national debt and strengthen the solvency of Social Security. But this Administration and the Republican Congressional Leadership have squandered the budget surpluses on wasteful tax policies and are running record budget deficits as far as the eye can see.

This budget offers more of the same failed policies and it flunks the test of moral leadership by increasing the burdens on the poor, the middle class, families struggling to get into the middle class and future generations. This budget contains devastating cuts to essential services for our families and will leave the statutory debt at a record level of \$11.3 trillion. The American people deserve better.

As the only former State schools chief serving in Congress, public education is my priority. Education holds the key to the American Dream for middle class families, and the Federal Government has a solemn obligation to help all of our people make the most of their God-given abilities. This budget eliminates 42 Federal education initiatives, cuts funding for education, social services and training by \$4.6 billion below the amount needed to maintain

purchasing power at the current level and will cut this funding more deeply each subsequent year.

Specifically, this budget completely dismantles: vocational education (\$1.3 billion); Perkins Loans (\$730 million); Safe and Drug-Free Schools state grants (\$347 million); GEAR-UP college readiness for low-income students (\$303 million); education technology (\$287 million); and Even Start family literacy services (\$99 million). The budget cuts \$15 billion from the amount authorized for the No Child Left Behind education reform effort and cuts the Federal contribution for special education from the current 17.7 percent to only 17.0 percent for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) despite years of rhetoric from the Republicans claiming to support IDEA. And while the costs of college continue to rise, this budget contains none of the funds needed to raise Pell Grants beyond the 2003 funding level.

In addition, this Republican budget resolution cuts funding for homeland security, including port security by \$6.1 billion over 5 years, cuts essential services for working families by \$9.4 billion, cuts veterans' health care by \$6.0 billion, slashes funding for health by \$18.1 billion below current services and fails to protect the environment by imposing a cut of \$25 billion over the next 5 years.

In contrast, the Spratt Substitute will balance the budget by 2012. It includes tough Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO) budget enforcement rules that require the cost of any new mandatory spending or revenue legislation to be fully offset. Vice President CHENEY has claimed "deficits don't matter," but the American people know better. The Spratt budget provides \$4.6 billion more for education in 2007 than the Republican budget and adds \$45.3 billion over 5 years that our States and communities desperately need for quality schools.

The Spratt Substitute keeps our commitment to veterans by including \$8.6 billion more than the Republican budget for veterans' health care. It provides \$6.5 billion more over 5 years for homeland security, including port security and rejects the Republican cut to Army National Guard troop strength and the cut to Cooperative Threat Reduction that protects America from weapons of mass destruction. The Spratt alternative budget provides \$18 billion more over 5 years to fund health priorities cut by the Republican budget, including medical research at NIH and CDC, rural health activities, and graduate medical education for children's hospitals. Finally, the Spratt Substitute rejects the Republican budget cuts for environmental protection and requires an honest, separate vote on any proposal to raise the limit on the national debt.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I believe the Federal budget is the public expression of our Nation's priorities and values. I urge Congress to reject the Republican budget that is wrong for America and support the Spratt Substitute that restores funding for essential services for a stronger country and a brighter tomorrow for our families.

RECOGNIZING VICTOR FONTANEZ

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing United States Army Private Victor Fontanez, a soldier who exemplifies stellar qualities of dedication and service to Northwest Missouri and the United States of America in his service to our country in World War II. Beginning his service in January of 1941, Victor served with the honor and integrity that we have come to admire.

In his military service during World War II, Victor landed in the 9th Infantry Division Company B 47th Infantry 1st Battalion engaged in the African section of the European Front. During an operation in April of 1943 located in Tunisia, Private Fontanez took shrapnel fire and was rewarded the Purple Heart. After recovery he was transferred to the 36th Infantry Division as a Combat Engineer in the Italian Campaign. After the liberation of Rome and victories throughout Italy, Victor and the 36th Infantry Division invaded Southern France on August 15, 1944.

During this invasion of France by the 36th Infantry, Private Fontanez had witnessed the explosion of an Allied plane over the beach. The plane and crew crashed into a lagoon nearby and Private Fontanez acting without hesitation rescued some of the injured flight crew. It was this act of selflessness and bravery that earned Private Fontanez the Soldiers Medal for Heroism.

Victor Fontanez's service to the United States of America in defending freedom will never be forgotten. His courage and dedication when his country needed him the most is something to be admired. I am honored to represent one of America's great heroes and I ask the United States Congress to join me in honoring his service.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
WILLIAMSON FLYING CLUB, INC.
CELEBRATED ON MAY 18, 2006

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the Williamson Flying Club, Inc. The Williamson Flying Club began as a shared dream by five men from Williamson, New York. These men held informal hearings to share their aspirations of wanting to fly and starting their own flying club. On May 4, 1956, these men began to realize part of their dream and purchased their first aircraft. With time, the group began to expand their membership and services. By May 18, 1956, the Williamson Flying Club became incorporated as a member corporation. In the beginning, the group operated from the Palmyra airport, later they moved to a dirt strip that became the Williamson-Sodus Airport. The Williamson-Sodus Airport was an 1800-foot runway that was seeded in July 1957. Over the years the runway has been upgraded and is now a 3,800 ft. hard surface asphalt runway with modern lighting and taxiways and

is always under improvement. By 1975 the club had expanded to 6 aircraft and today they have over 140 members.

The Williamson Flying Club, Inc. has a storied history ranging over five decades. As stated in their corporation certificate: "The purpose for which the corporation is to be formed are to promote and encourage interest in aviation and all allied sciences . . . to teach the members of the corporation to fly and improve their ability . . . to purchase . . . airplanes . . . airports, hangars . . . but not for profit." Out of a deep love and respect for aviation, the group carries an altruistic spirit to share and spread the wonders that flying can bring not only to individuals but also to the surrounding community.

I congratulate the Williamson Flying Club, Inc. on a successful history and wish them the best of luck for the many more years of flying they have ahead.

HONORING FAUSTO MIRANDA

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address the House in honor of Fausto Miranda, a legendary sports reporter and one of the most outstanding members of our Cuban-American community. Last week, Fausto Miranda passed away in his Miami home at the age of 91.

Miami and the Cuban people grieve in the face of this loss. Fausto Miranda was born on July 4, 1914, not knowing that history would turn this date into two reasons for him to celebrate. In 1960, Fausto Miranda came to the U.S. where, like so many other Cubans fleeing the newly installed Castro regime, he found a safe haven and the opportunity to continue his extraordinary journalistic career. The fourth of July from now on provided him with two reasons to celebrate—the day he was born and the day America became independent and turned into a home for the oppressed and persecuted.

Born and raised in the town of Puerto Padre in eastern Cuba, Fausto Miranda dreamt of becoming a lawyer; instead his poor background forced him to work in the sugar industry for a mere 30 pesos a month. Young Fausto was very shrewd when it came to making a living—he took on such diverse jobs as street vendor, prison guard, trumpeter, orchestra manager, doorman, cleaning person, music critic, social annalist, and political reporter.

At the age of 20, fate showed him where his real talent lay buried. Working as a stadium announcer, he one day passed his notes on to a journalist of *Diario de Cuba*, one of the count's major newspapers. The next day, the article on the baseball game that appeared in the *Diario* was signed by 'Fausto Miranda, Special Correspondent'. Years later, Fausto Miranda recalled: "The night the newspaper came out and I saw the article with my name, I did not sleep."

His career began to take off when he moved to Cuba's capital city of Havana in 1933. He started writing a column called "Stardust" which soon brought him further writing assignments for the newspapers *El Crisol*, *Información*, *Diario de la Marina* and

Alerta as well as a job as sports commentator for radio COCO. Fausto Miranda rose to become "an all-time pillar of Cuban sports journalism with an encyclopedic knowledge of baseball", according to Felo Ramirez, a veteran sports commentator and member of the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Coopers-town.

During Fausto's time in Havana, the Cuban people were fortunate to have the best sports journalists in the hemisphere, including great personalities like Eladio Secades, Jessie Losada, and Pedro Galiana. When Fidel Castro came to power in 1959, Miranda was president of the Sports Writer Association. Like so many other branches of the vibrant Cuban civil society, the Association was closed down by the dictator and Fausto Miranda was forced to flee the tyrant's grasp.

He arrived in New York City, the haven to so many freedom-seeking immigrants, where he once again started off by taking on a simple job as doorman before entering the American sports journalism. While his little brother Willy Miranda was out on the field playing for the New York Yankees, Fausto was reporting from the American sports world for a wide variety of national and international media. He wrote for the newspaper *La Prensa*, the *Gesto* magazine as well as the French news agency AFP, and broadcast for the radio stations Canal 47, Radio X and WQBA-La Cubanísima.

In 1975, Fausto moved to Miami where he founded the sports section of *El Miami Herald*, predecessor of *El Nuevo Herald*, the Spanish-language version of the *Miami Herald*. In his famed weekly column "Los viejos", Fausto Miranda revived the Cuban-American's community memories of their tropical homeland. The popularity he gained was so great that even after his retirement in 1995, Fausto continued to publish the popular weekly column.

The Cuban-American community mourns an outstanding man, whose love of sports would always drive him forward. Calling himself a "very bad athlete . . . very bad in everything", his passion for the athletic world paved his way from a stadium announcer to one of the Western Hemisphere's most high-profile sports journalists. Not even the murderous dictator Fidel Castro could stop him—from stardom in Havana, Fausto went to stardom in Miami.

Fausto Miranda was not only an annalist of the times when legends like the boxers Kid Chocolate and Joe Louis were attracting huge crowds, and baseball legends Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig were filling the stadiums, but through his writing he also helped the Cuban American community to keep our memories of our native Cuba alive, "the most beautiful land human eyes ever beheld," as he once said. We will greatly miss him.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 376) establishing the congress-

sional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2007 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2008 through 2011:

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the deficits proposed by this budget. We are at war. This should be a time of sacrifice for all Americans; it is not the time for gutting programs that help working families to pay for tax cuts to the wealthy among us. Sacrifice should be shared, not dumped on some of us.

Everywhere I go these days, people ask me when Congress will do something about the budget deficit—which will mean profound taxes on their children down the road . . . Republicans, Democrats, business people, laborers—everybody.

I keep telling them each budget we pass is worse and worse, growing the deficit at an incredible level. People used to say Congress was taxing and spending. These days Congress is borrowing and spending . . . worse, we're borrowing from our children. This budget grows both the deficit and the national debt. The deficits in this budget would, according to the report accompanying the resolution, lead to another debt limit increase of \$653 billion—on top of the \$3 trillion in debt ceiling increases already approved since President Bush took office.

And still . . . this resolution makes deep and harmful cuts to critical services for working families—including border security, education, and veterans' services. Democrats offer a budget today, that this House will certainly reject, that does not include the harmful cuts to domestic priorities while still reaching balance in 2012. It has smaller deficits than the Republican budget, accumulates less debt, and returns us back to paying for what we pass.

If we pass this budget resolution today—and I will vote no—this House is following the bad ideas in President Bush's budget, which continues the policies of the past 5 years that deeply cut into the spending for our homeland security, simply to pay for tax cuts to the wealthiest Americans.

The budget makes long-term damage in our real security . . . at a time the President and many in this Congress are saying the needs on the border are so severe that we must send the National Guard to protect the border. First, let me say how much I oppose deploying the Guard to the border . . . but let's talk about how we got to crisis on the border: it is entirely about calculated disregard to the security forces on the border.

The House budget shortchanges homeland security programs—cutting them by up to \$488 million this year and up to \$6.1 billion over 5 years from the amount needed to keep up with inflation. In December, when the 9/11 Commission issued its final report card, it gave the Bush Administration and this Congress a series of C's, D's, and F's on many areas in homeland security—including border security.

The only thing we have given border security is promises, but no money. We know generally how much it would cost for the recommendations the 9-11 Commission said was the very least we must do to make a dent in illegal immigration:

\$375 million for the detention beds the 9/11 Commission determined we need,

\$340 million for the Border Patrol agents the 9/11 Commission determined we need.

Even with the VA treating more than 144,000 veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan,